

**VSH Employee Futures Work Group Meeting
Friday, April 21, 2006, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
AHS Secretary's Conference Room**

**MINUTES
(Approved on April 28, 2006)**

Gail Rushford convened the meeting at 1:15 PM.

Present: Annie Noonan, Dena Weidman, Gail Rushford, Laura DeForge, Conor Casey, Keith Goslant, and John O'Brien

Absent: Terry Rowe, Goldie Watson, and John Berard

Futures Staff: Judy Rosenstreich

Guest: Michael Sabourin

Gail presented an agenda, as follows:

Introductions

Updates

Approval of Minutes

Review brainstorm results

- Are there any other options to discuss?
- Discuss clarifications, observations, questions.
- Sort and organize into major categories
- Begin to identify pros and cons
- Public comment
- Wrap up

Update from VSEA

Annie noted that the House Human Services Committee voted to support the Futures Project going through the CON process, rejecting the exemption language proposed by AHS/VDH. Annie spoke of the depth and transparency of the review and whether the state may continue to pursue exemption from the CON process.

Conor referred to his 4/21/06 email in which he advised work group members of language on staffing and workforce issues in the Futures plan and in the capital bill.

Minutes

Gail asked for review of the April 14 draft minutes and Judy made changes, as follows:

- Page 1 ~~John~~ ~~Annie~~ asked how a Burlington location might impact families visiting patients from distant Vermont towns.
- Page 3 Annie stated that she wants ~~VSH employees~~ employee representatives to this committee to be granted time off for work related to this committee including visits such as to visit the New Hampshire State Hospital and that VSEA is willing to share expenses or to cover expenses as necessary.
- Page 3 John O'Brien ...The Burlington Free Press reported that VSH was a disgrace twenty years ago, it is a disgrace now.
- Page 3 Keith Goslant ...we have staff who have given years of service and have ~~acquired training from Goldie~~ credit for their training.

Judy advised that the April 14 draft minutes should be posted as of this afternoon on the Mental Health Weekly Update. Annie objected, citing an earlier decision of the work group to review and approve minutes prior to them being made public. Judy advised that the Futures Project works collaboratively with a large, diverse group of stakeholders for whom we provide timely information about the project, including work group activities. Minutes of public meetings are made available timely and re-posted as finalized.

After further discussion related to the minutes and, generally, to the autonomy of the work group to decide its process and operating procedures,

- Annie moved / Conor seconded to table approval of the minutes and, further, to ask Gail to consult with Steve Gold on the issue of posting minutes before they are finalized because this section of the minutes ["Approval of Minutes" on page 2] does not reflect the work group's prior decision.

Voting in favor, 6 Opposed, 0 Abstention, 1

There was more discussion about how the work group would conduct business, operate and make decisions. Gail stated that we are charged with making recommendations, not decisions. She said that we are going to go through a group process, strive for consensus, and include dissenting opinions, if any, in our report.

Gail suggested that we pause for a break.

At 3:15, discussion began on brainstorming activity. Gail put 19 options on the wall...ideas and tentacles of ideas. Gail will consolidate all of these options in a Word document and Judy will integrate them with the minutes to be part of the meeting record.

General Discussion of Brainstorming Options

Laura suggested that we categorize the options. Categories included...

- Type of facility
- Training and education
- Contract
- Legislation
- Transition hiring
- Miscellaneous concerns

Keith suggested that we place these in order of most amount of work (to make it happen) to least amount of work for this work group. In response to Gail's point that we identify preferred options, Keith clarified that this would identify the work needed to implement.

Gail will develop a facilitation plan.

Public comment was taken.

Schedule for Next Meeting

Annie asked that we meet at 1:00 on April 28 in order to spend the first hour on

- How the group functions
- Review / approve minutes

Gail will check on the availability of members to meet at 1:00 PM. If feasible, Judy will ensure that the public notice is revised from 2:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

In response to concern about setting meeting times in May, Judy offered to email work group members to establish upcoming meetings that worked for at least most members. It was understood that until the legislature adjourns, meetings would be held on Mondays or Friday afternoons.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Rosenstreich
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